SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
12¢
4-17
JUNE
NO. 148
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BATMAN
BATMAN UNMASKED! in "THE JOKER'S GREATEST TRIUMPH!"
AT LAST I'VE UNMASKED BATMAN AND HAVE DISCOVERED HIS SECRET IDENTITY!
GREAT SCOTT! NOW THE JOKER KNOWS THAT BATMAN IS BRUCE WAYNE!

TOMORROW'S STARS APPEAR TODAY!

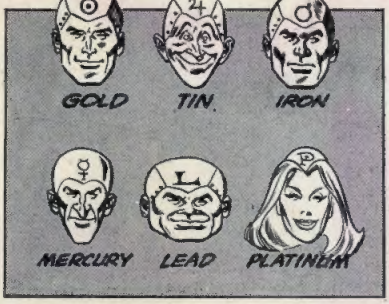
The ATOM

HAWKMAN

LOOK FOR THEM AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND!

AQUAMAN

METAL MEN



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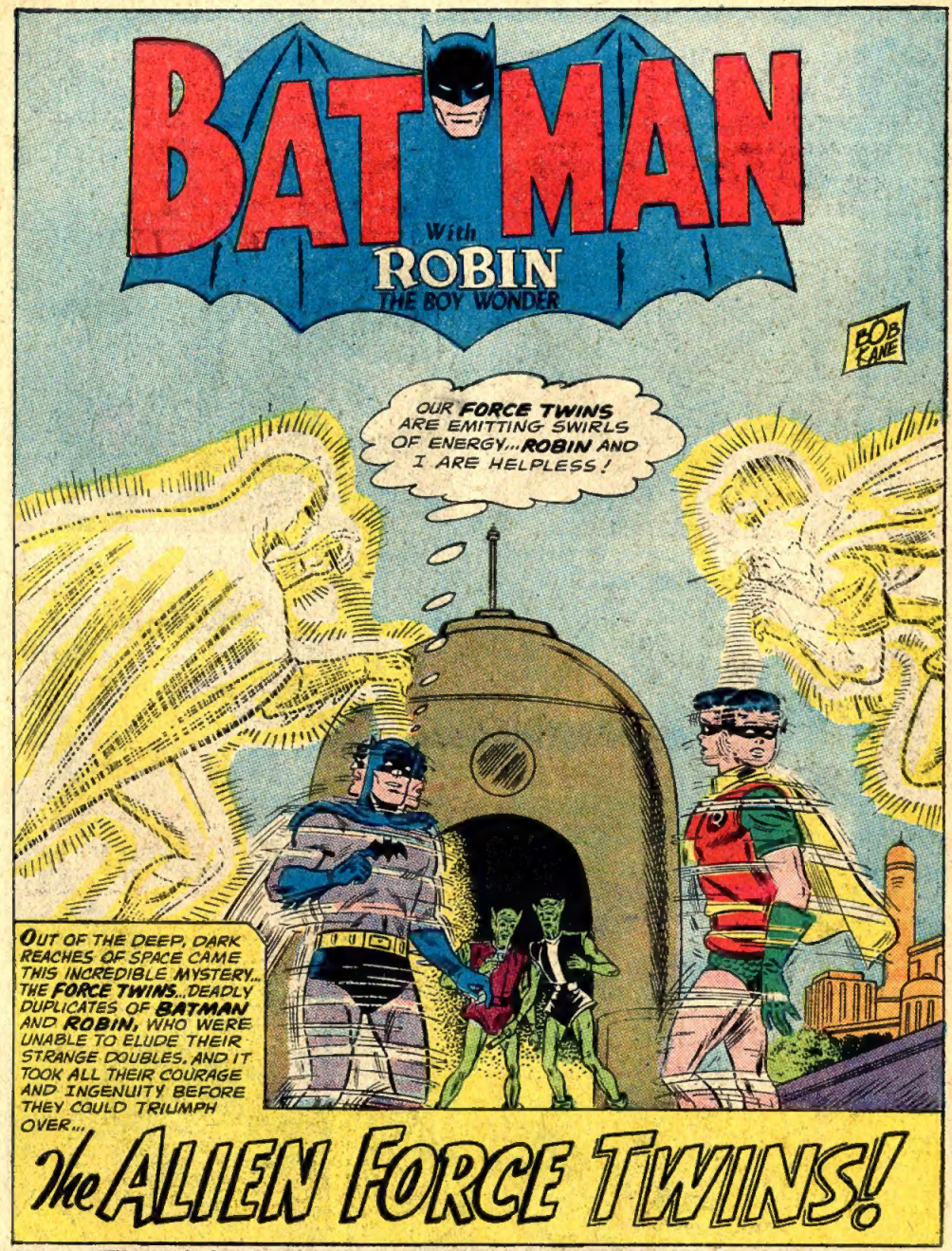
THEY'RE DC'S LATEST
THEY'RE the GREATEST

SUPERMAN · DC · NATIONAL COMICS


BATMAN
With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
BOB KANE
OUR FORCE TWINS ARE EMITTING SWIRLS OF ENERGY... ROBIN AND I ARE HELPLESS!
OUT OF THE DEEP, DARK REACHES OF SPACE CAME THIS INCREDIBLE MYSTERY.. THE FORCE TWINS...DEADLY DUPLICATES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, WHO WERE UNABLE TO ELUDE THEIR STRANGE DOUBLES, AND IT TOOK ALL THEIR COURAGE AND INGENUITY BEFORE THEY COULD TRIUMPH OVER...
The ALIEN FORCE TWINS!

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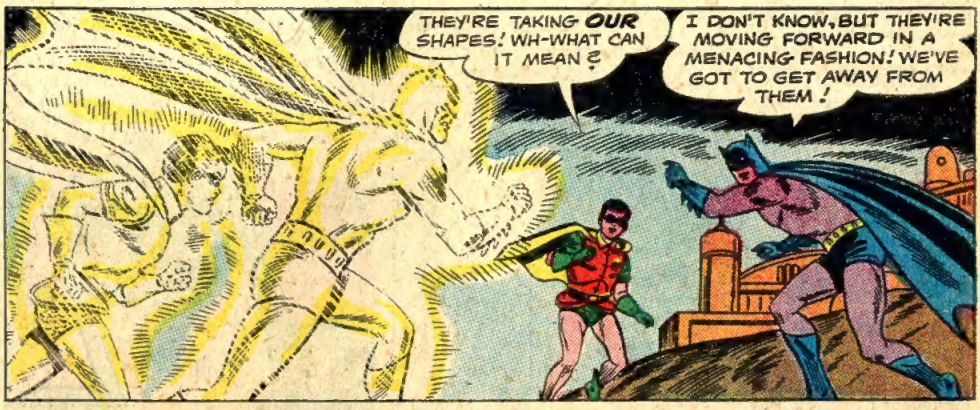
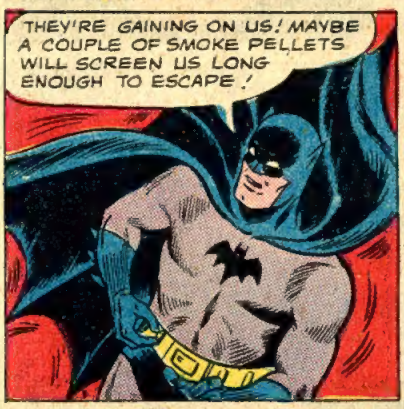
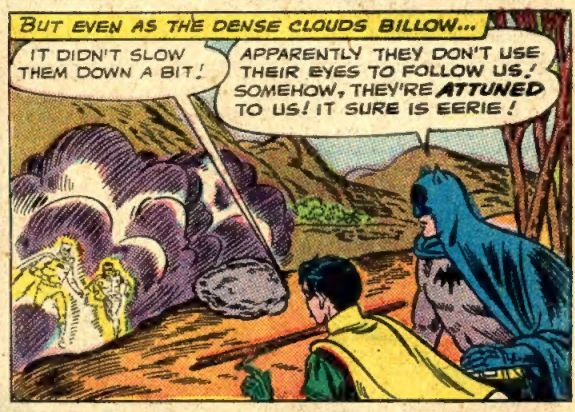
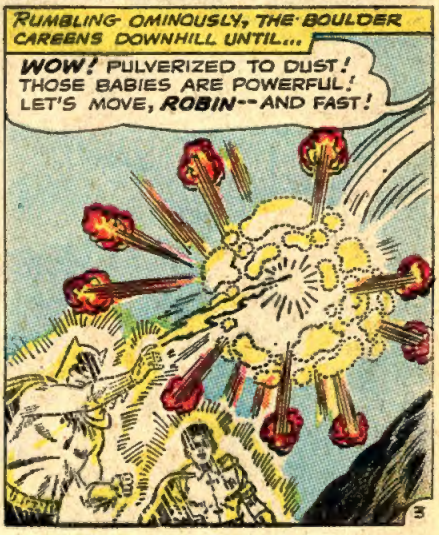
ONE NIGHT, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, RETURN FROM A BRIEF VISIT TO A DISTANT COUNTRY...
THE STORM HAS GIVEN THE BAT-PLANE SUCH A BUFFETING, IT'S THROWN THE INSTRUMENTS OFF-BALANCE! WE'RE FLYING BLIND!
THEN WITH THE FIRST RAYS OF DAWN, THE SKY CLEARS...
THOSE WEIRD, JAGGED PEAKS BELOW INDICATE WE'RE ABOVE THE KSHIHO MOUNTAIN RANGE, THE WORLD'S MOST ISOLATED TERRITORY!
BATMAN! DOWN THERE! LOOK!
GREAT SCOTT! I'VE NEVER SEEN A CITY LIKE THAT ON EARTH BEFORE! AND WHAT COULD THOSE STRANGE, SWIRLING COLUMNS BE?
WE'LL HAVE TO LAND AND INVESTIGATE!
NOT LONG AFTER, AS THE DYNAMIC DUO CAUTIOUSLY ADVANCE...
LOOK! TWO OF THOSE ENERGY COLUMNS ARE RUSHING TOWARDS US!
GREAT GUNS, BATMAN! THEY'RE CHANGING--TAKING ON HUMAN SHAPE!


THEY'RE TAKING OUR SHAPES! WH-WHAT CAN IT MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT THEY'RE MOVING FORWARD IN A MENACING FASHION! WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THEM!


THEY'RE GAINING ON US! MAYBE A COUPLE OF SMOKE PELLETS WILL SCREEN US LONG ENOUGH TO ESCAPE!

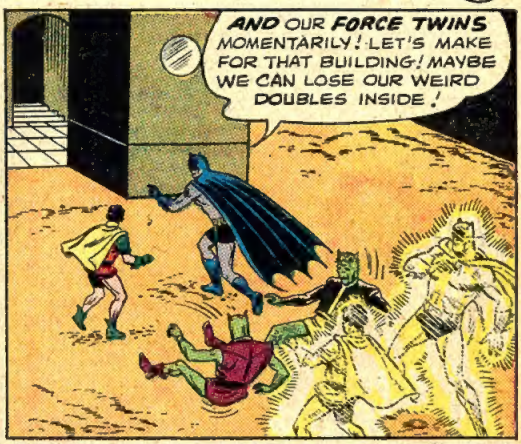

BUT EVEN AS THE DENSE CLOUDS BILLOW...
IT DIDN'T SLOW THEM DOWN A BIT!
APPARENTLY THEY DON'T USE THEIR EYES TO FOLLOW US! SOMEHOW, THEY'RE ATTUNED TO US! IT SURE IS EERIE!

IT'S ALMOST LIKE FIGHTING OURSELVES!
LET'S ROLL THIS BOULDER DOWN ON THEM! MAYBE THAT'LL STOP THEM!


RUMBLING OMINOUSLY, THE BOULDER CAREENS DOWNHILL UNTIL...
WOW! PULVERIZED TO DUST! THOSE BABIES ARE POWERFUL! LET'S MOVE, ROBIN--AND FAST!

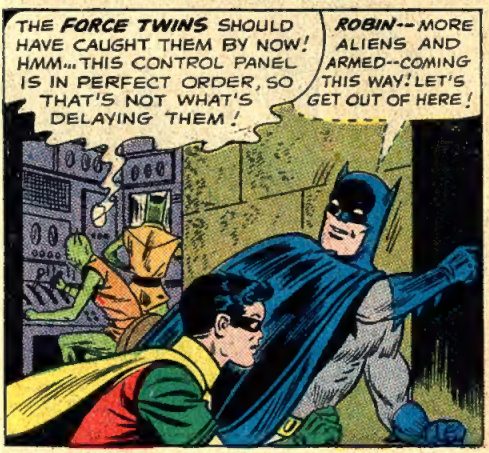
THEN, AS THEY NEAR THE REFUGE OF THE CITY...
BEHOLD! OUR FORCE TWINS HAVE ASSUMED THE SHAPE OF NATIVE PEOPLE AND PURSUE THEM HERE!
GREAT SCOTT! ALIENS FROM ANOTHER WORLD, COMMUNICATING WITH US BY SOME KIND OF TELEPATHY! WHAT CAN THEY WANT HERE?
WE'LL HAVE TO FIND THAT OUT, IF WE CAN ESCAPE FROM THOSE ELECTRONIC WATCHDOGS! IN SOME MYSTERIOUS WAY, THEY WERE SET TO TAKE THE SHAPE OF INTRUDERS, BRING THEM INTO THE CITY, AND WARN THE ALIENS THAT THERE ARE TRESPASSERS!
SUDDENLY... OUT OF THE WAY-- OF THOSE BOLTS OF PURE ENERGY OUR FORCE TWINS JUST HURLED AT US!
NOT VERY FRIENDLY FOR TWINS, ARE THEY?
WHEW! THOSE BOLTS STRUCK SO DEEP INTO THE GROUND, THEY EXPOSED AN UNDERGROUND POOL! OUR "TWINS" ARE HERDING US RIGHT INTO THE ALIENS' HANDS!
BATMAN--! THE ALIENS... ARE STAGGERING!
COME ON--DON'T GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO REGAIN THEIR BALANCE!

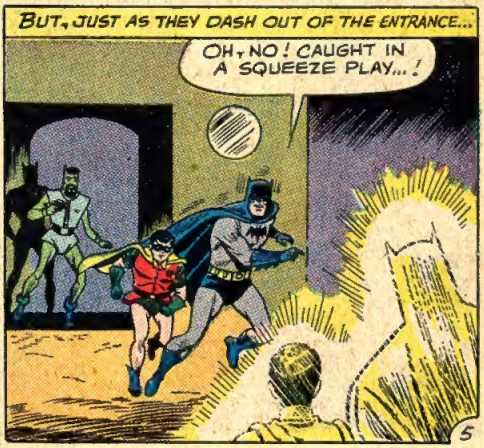
THIS MAY SLOW THESE FELLOWS DOWN...
WHAPP!
SOCK

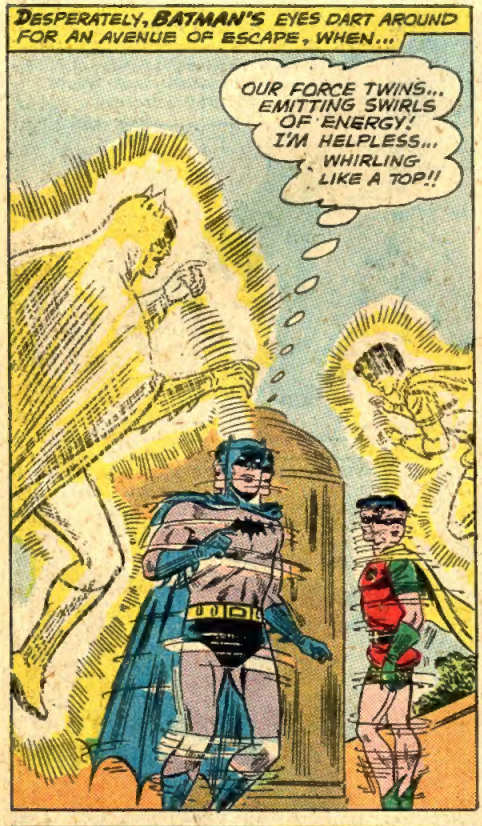

AND OUR FORCE TWINS MOMENTARILY! LET'S MAKE FOR THAT BUILDING! MAYBE WE CAN LOSE OUR WEIRD DOUBLES INSIDE!

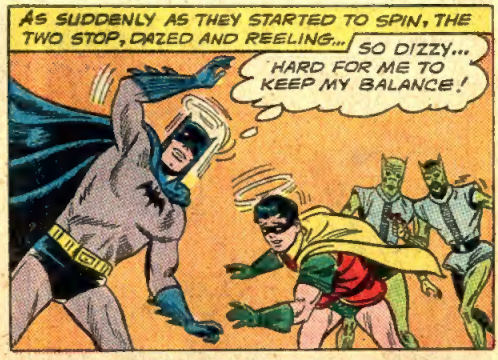
INSIDE, THEY COME TO AN ABRUPT STOP...
SHH! VOICES AHEAD! LET'S CONTINUE, BUT BE AS QUIET AS YOU CAN!

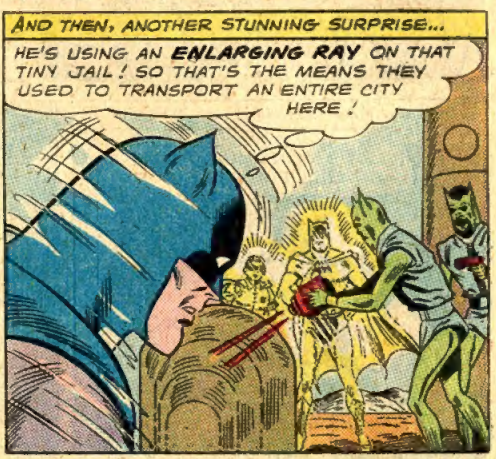
THOSE NATIVES ARE MORE RESOURCEFUL THAN I THOUGHT! THEY MUST BE CAUGHT SOON... BEFORE THEY REVEAL OUR PRESENCE HERE AND END OUR RAIDS ON THEIR CITIES FOR RARE MINERALS!

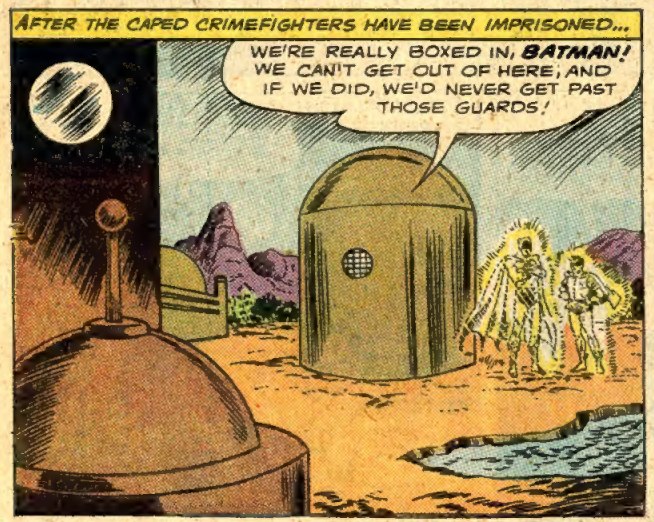

THE FORCE TWINS SHOULD HAVE CAUGHT THEM BY NOW! HMM... THIS CONTROL PANEL IS IN PERFECT ORDER, SO THAT'S NOT WHAT'S DELAYING THEM!
ROBIN--- MORE ALIENS AND ARMED--COMING THIS WAY! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!


BUT, JUST AS THEY DASH OUT OF THE ENTRANCE...
OH, NO! CAUGHT IN A SQUEEZE PLAY...!

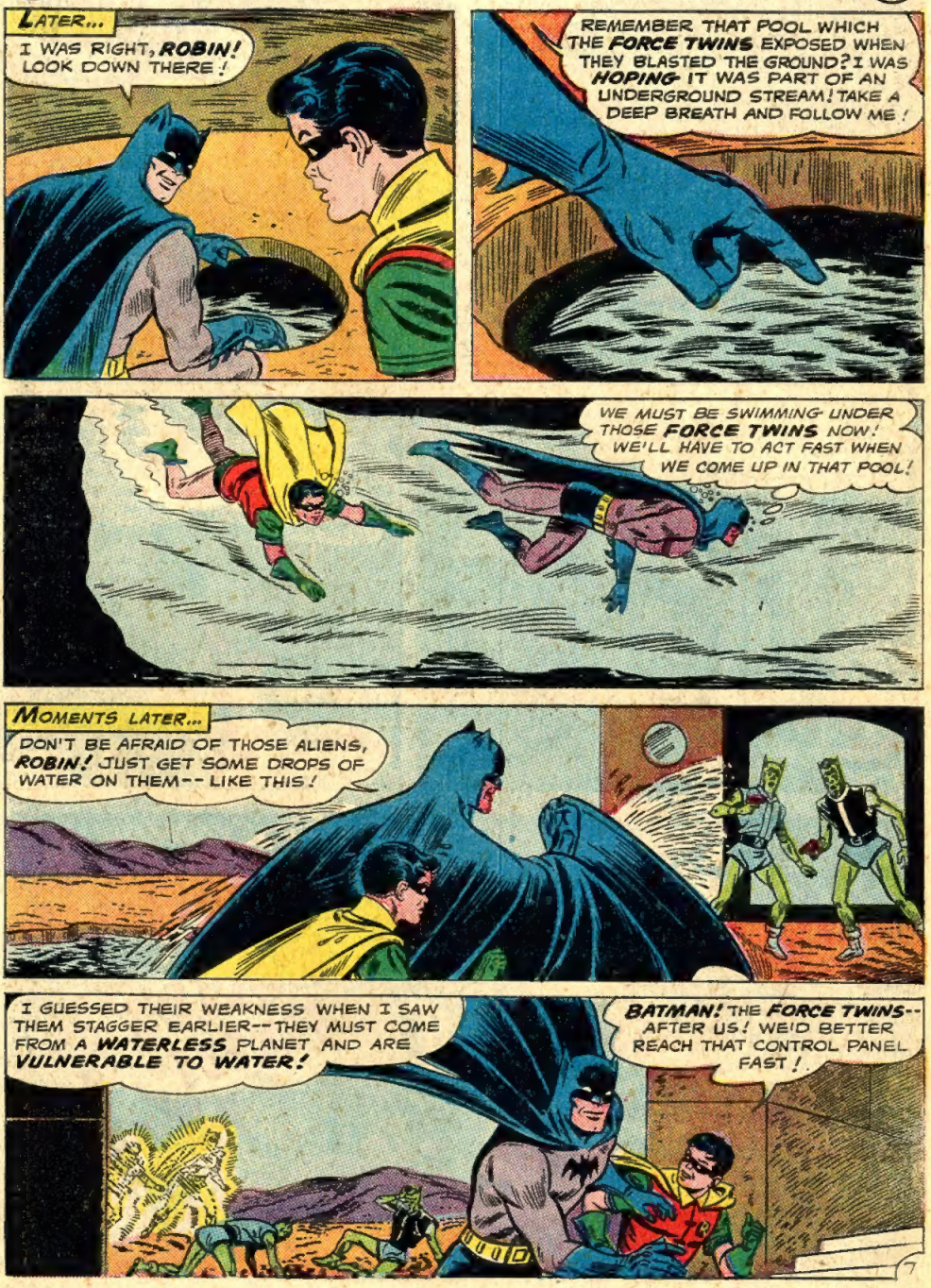

DESPERATELY, BATMAN'S EYES DART AROUND FOR AN AVENUE OF ESCAPE, WHEN...
OUR FORCE TWINS... EMITTING SWIRLS OF ENERGY! I'M HELPLESS... WHIRLING LIKE A TOP!!

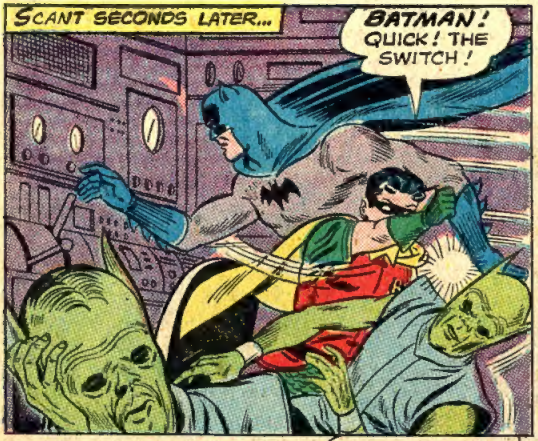

AS SUDDENLY AS THEY STARTED TO SPIN, THE TWO STOP, DAZED AND REELING...
SO DIZZY... HARD FOR ME TO KEEP MY BALANCE!

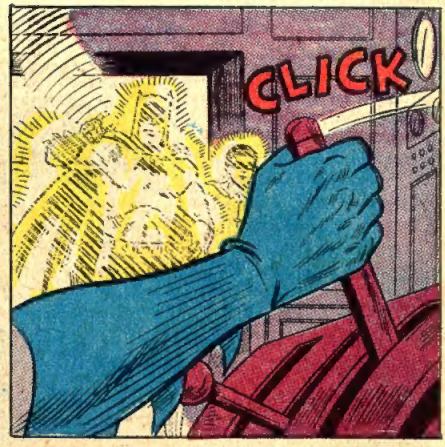

AND THEN, ANOTHER STUNNING SURPRISE...
HE'S USING AN ENLARGING RAY ON THAT TINY JAIL! SO THAT'S THE MEANS THEY USED TO TRANSPORT AN ENTIRE CITY HERE!

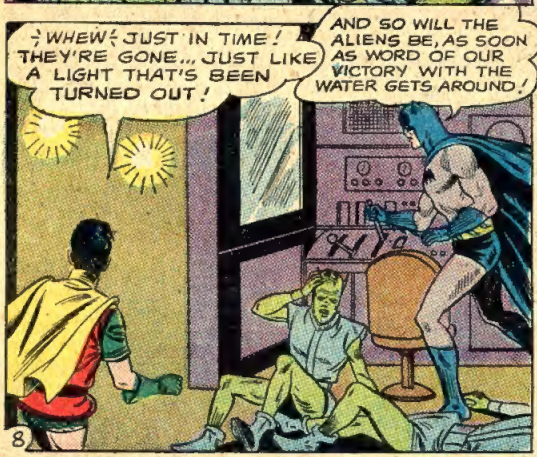

AFTER THE CAPED CRIMEFIGHTERS HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED...
WE'RE REALLY BOXED IN, BATMAN! WE CAN'T GET OUT OF HERE, AND IF WE DID, WE'D NEVER GET PAST THOSE GUARDS!

HMM... THIS FLOOR IS MADE OF SOME KIND OF PLASTIC... I HAVE A TERRIFIC IDEA! LUCKY THEY DIDN'T TAKE OUR UTILITY BELTS! LET'S START DIGGING!


LATER...
I WAS RIGHT, ROBIN! LOOK DOWN THERE!
REMEMBER THAT POOL WHICH THE FORCE TWINS EXPOSED WHEN THEY BLASTED THE GROUND? I WAS HOPING IT WAS PART OF AN UNDERGROUND STREAM! TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND FOLLOW ME!
WE MUST BE SWIMMING UNDER THOSE FORCE TWINS NOW! WE'LL HAVE TO ACT FAST WHEN WE COME UP IN THAT POOL!
MOMENTS LATER...
DON'T BE AFRAID OF THOSE ALIENS, ROBIN! JUST GET SOME DROPS OF WATER ON THEM--LIKE THIS!
I GUESSED THEIR WEAKNESS WHEN I SAW THEM STAGGER EARLIER--THEY MUST COME FROM A WATERLESS PLANET AND ARE VULNERABLE TO WATER!
BATMAN! THE FORCE TWINS--AFTER US! WE'D BETTER REACH THAT CONTROL PANEL FAST!


SCANT SECONDS LATER...
BATMAN! QUICK! THE SWITCH!


CLICK


WHEW! JUST IN TIME! THEY'RE GONE... JUST LIKE A LIGHT THAT'S BEEN TURNED OUT!
AND SO WILL THE ALIENS BE, AS SOON AS WORD OF OUR VICTORY WITH THE WATER GETS AROUND!
8

PRESENTLY, AFTER THE WEIRD VISITORS HAVE REDUCED THEIR CITY AND LOADED IT ABOARD THEIR SPACESHIP...
NOW THAT WE KNOW THEIR WEAKNESS, THEY'LL NEVER BE BACK AGAIN!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SO HAPPY TO SEE A DOUBLE OF MINE LEAVE!
THE END

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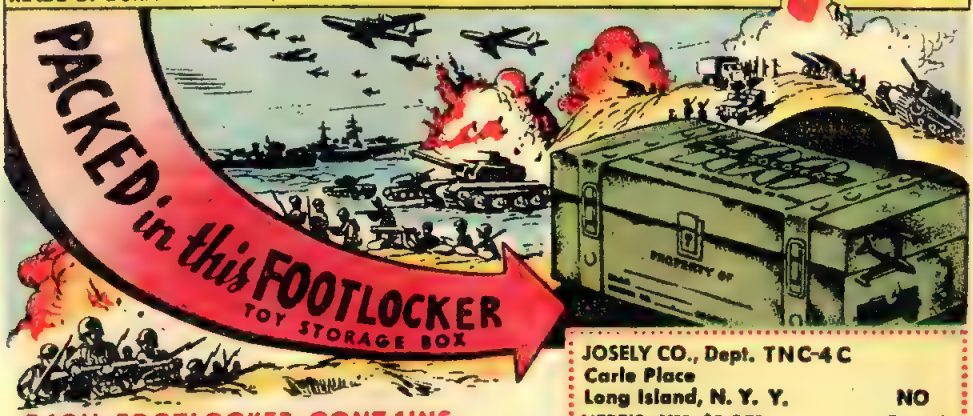

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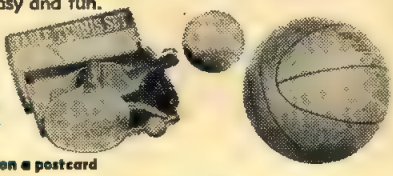

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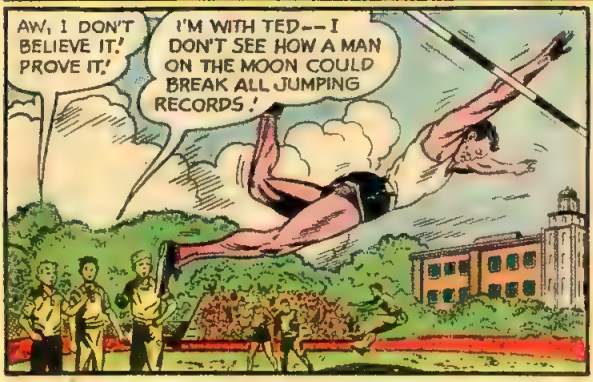
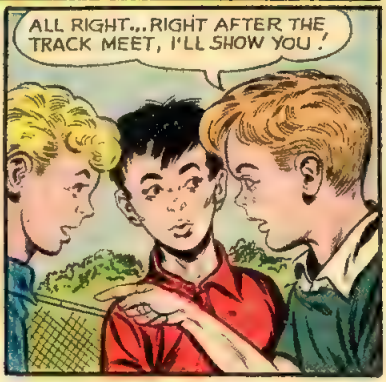
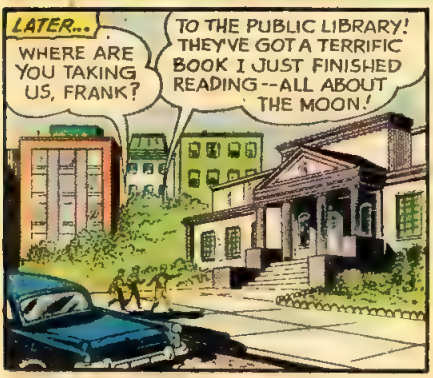
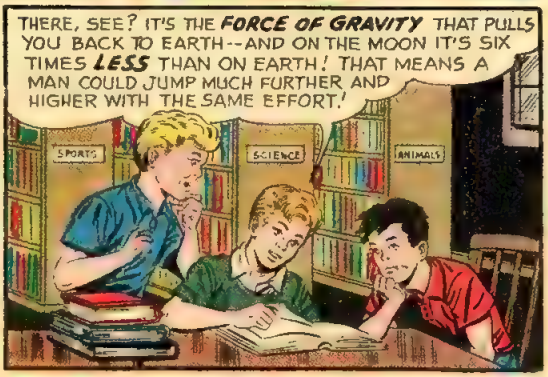
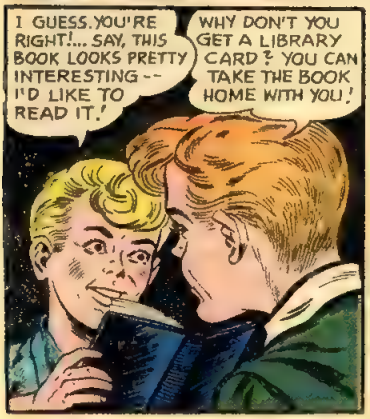
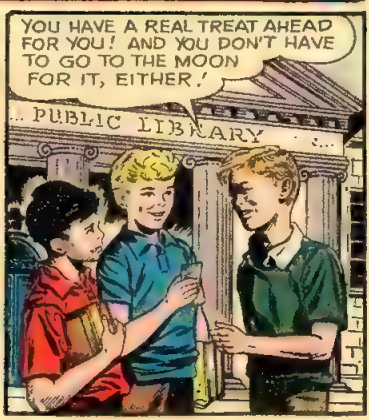





LATER...
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US, FRANK?
TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY! THEY'VE GOT A TERRIFIC BOOK I JUST FINISHED READING--ALL ABOUT THE MOON!


THERE, SEE? IT'S THE FORCE OF GRAVITY THAT PULLS YOU BACK TO EARTH--AND ON THE MOON IT'S SIX TIMES LESS THAN ON EARTH! THAT MEANS A MAN COULD JUMP MUCH FURTHER AND HIGHER WITH THE SAME EFFORT!
SPORTS
SCIENCE
ANIMALS


I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!... SAY, THIS BOOK LOOKS PRETTY INTERESTING--I'D LIKE TO READ IT!
WHY DON'T YOU GET A LIBRARY CARD? YOU CAN TAKE THE BOOK HOME WITH YOU!



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BIG-BIG-BIG NEWS
ABOUT A
SMALL-SMALL-SMALL SUPER-HERO
A SMASHING SUCCESS in SHOWCASE,
The ATOM
HAS WON THE RIGHT TO APPEAR IN A MAGAZINE OF HIS OWN!
SUPERMAN · DC · NATIONAL COMICS
The WORLD'S SMALLEST SUPER-HERO EXPLODES INTO ACTION IN THIS POWER-PACKED ISSUE...
DC
12¢
ATOM
ON SALE EVERYWHERE APRIL 24th

LEFTY LOOIE
SOME IDEA THE WARDEN HAS, PAINTING NUMBERS ON THE CELLS WITH PHOSPHORESCENT PAINT, SO THEY CAN BE SEEN IN THE DARK!
WATCH IT, PAL! YOU'RE SPLASHING ALL OVER.
7
4172
WELL, THAT'S FINISHED. NOW LET'S HIDE IN THE PAINT SHOP UNTIL TONIGHT WHEN WE BREAK OUT OF THIS PRISON.
4172
THAT NIGHT..
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS STAY IN THE SHADOWS AND CLIMB THE WALL!
EEEEEEEE
HALT! WE HAVE YOU COVERED!
YOU FOOL! YOU DROPPED PHOSPHOROUS PAINT ALL OVER YOURSELF. YOU GLOW LIKE AN ELECTRIC BULB!
4210
4172

BAT MAN
With ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
WHAT--? THAT PHONY ROBIN SENT THE REAL ONE FLYING UP TO ME!
IT TAKES A LOT TO BE ROBIN! COURAGE, INGENUITY, AGILITY, GREAT ATHLETIC PROWESS... THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE TRAITS THE BOY WONDER NEEDS! WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE ELSE TRIES TO PLAY THE ROLE IS THE AMAZING TALE OF...
THE BOY WHO WAS ROBIN
BOB KANE

ONE AFTERNOON, A SERIOUS CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE IN THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE...

FAMILY OBLIGATIONS MAKE IT NECESSARY FOR MY YOUNG COUSIN, VANDERVEER WAYNE, TO SPEND A WEEK HERE! WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO GUARD THE SECRET OF OUR **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** IDENTITIES!

I SHALL BE THE SOUL OF CAUTION, SIR!

YOU CAN RELY ON ME, BRUCE!

ALFRED AND DICK CERTAINLY MEAN WHAT THEY SAY--BUT FATE CAN TAKE SOME STRANGE TWISTS!

LATER, AS THE SCION OF A SUPER-FASHIONABLE FAMILY ARRIVES...

DICK, OLD CHAP!... GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN! HMM-- THAT JACKET OF YOURS... IT'S VERY NICE BUT LEAVES A LOT TO BE DESIRED. I'LL GIVE YOU THE NAME OF **MY** TAILOR... ABSOLUTELY THE BEST IN GOTHAM CITY!

WHY--ER--THANKS, VAN...

AND AFTERWARD, AS DICK ENTERTAINS HIS GUEST...

HMM... NOT A BAD PASS, DICK--BUT YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE! I'M CHAMP OF MY FENCING CLUB, YOU KNOW!

WHEW! IT LOOKS AS IF VAN HAS TO BE BEST IN **EVERYTHING!** IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK, TO CONCEAL MY SECRET IDENTITY!

BUT NEXT DAY, IN THE WELL-EQUIPPED WAYNE GYM...

HOW DO YOU LIKE **THIS?** MY PRIVATE INSTRUCTOR SAYS **NO ONE** SURPASSES ME IN GYMNASTIC SKILL!

OH-H... HE'S GETTING ON MY NERVES! A WEEK OF THIS WILL BE TOO MUCH... I'VE GOT TO KNOCK HIM OFF HIS HIGH HORSE!

UH--LET ME SHOW YOU A FEW TRICKS OF **MINE,** VAN!

AND AS DICK, SECRETLY THE INCOMPARABLE **ROBIN,** GOES THROUGH A SERIES OF SPARKLING ACROBATIC FEATS...

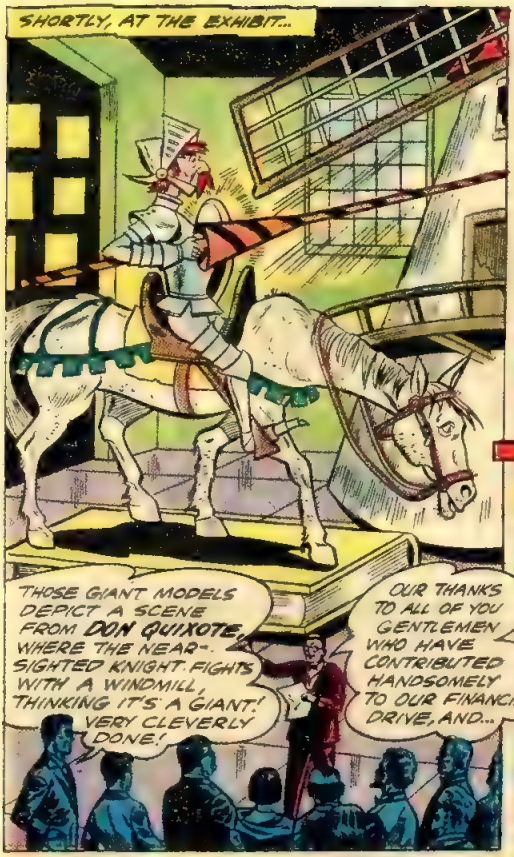
THIS'LL SHOW HIM UP, ONCE AND FOR ALL--GOLLY!... VAN'S ACTUALLY ON THE VERGE OF TEARS! HE CAN'T STAND BEING BESTED!

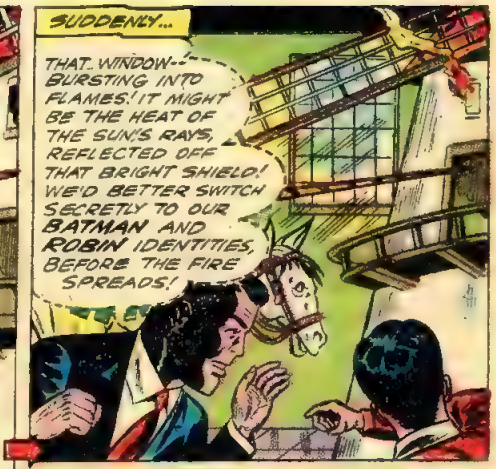
BUT DICK'S TRIUMPH IS SHORT-LIVED--FOR WHEN HE IS ALONE WITH BRUCE...

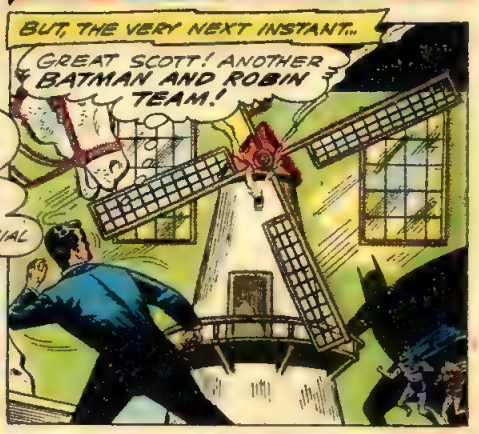
IF YOU SHOW OFF LIKE THAT A FEW MORE TIMES, YOU'LL CERTAINLY GIVE OUR IDENTITIES AWAY!

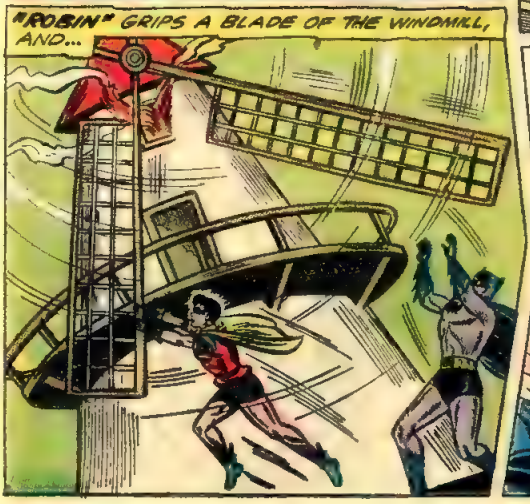
GOSH, YOU'RE RIGHT, BRUCE. I WAS RASH! I JUST COULDN'T STAND HIS BEING SO SUPERIOR... I'M SORRY!

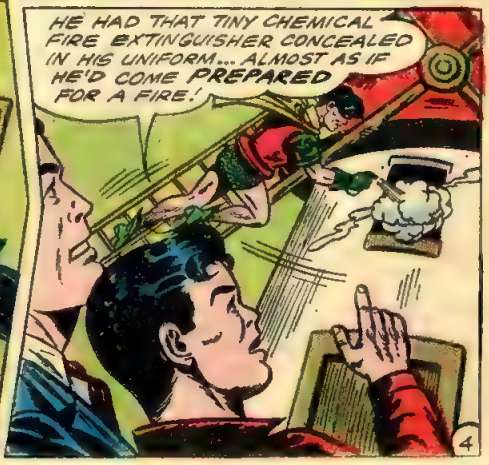
YES, DICK HAS BEEN INCAUTIOUS--BUT THAT'S MILD COMPARED TO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT MORNING, WHEN HE AND VAN RETURN FROM HORSEBACK RIDING...
GREAT SCOTT! ALFRED'S BEEN CAUGHT RED-HANDED! HE LAUNDERED OUR SPARE COSTUMES, AND WAS TAKING THEM TO THE BAT-CAVE!
AH, I SEE THOSE BATMAN AND ROBIN COSTUMES HAVE ARRIVED! HANG THEM UP IN OUR BEDROOM, ALFRED..
...AND MAKE SURE TO RETURN THEM TO THE ACME COSTUME RENTAL COMPANY, AFTER DICK AND I WEAR THEM TO THAT MASQUERADE BALL NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT!
THAT'S QUICK THINKING ON BRUCE'S PART! LUCKILY, THERE IS A BALL NEXT WEEK!
HOWEVER, VANDERVEER HAS ALSO BEEN THINKING AND BRUCE AND DICK WOULD BE AMAZED TO DISCOVER JUST WHAT THOUGHTS HAVE BEEN RACING THROUGH HIS MIND...
HMM--THOSE COSTUMES... THEY'VE GIVEN ME A FASCINATING IDEA!
LATER THAT AFTERNOON...
I'VE LOOKED ALL OVER FOR VANDERVEER, BRUCE, AND CAN'T FIND HIM! DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE MIGHT BE?
GOSH, NO!
WE CAN'T WORRY ABOUT HIM NOW, THOUGH... WE'RE ALREADY LATE FOR THE EXHIBIT SPONSORED BY THE READ-A-GOOD-BOOK COMMITTEE!
YES... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT HIM!

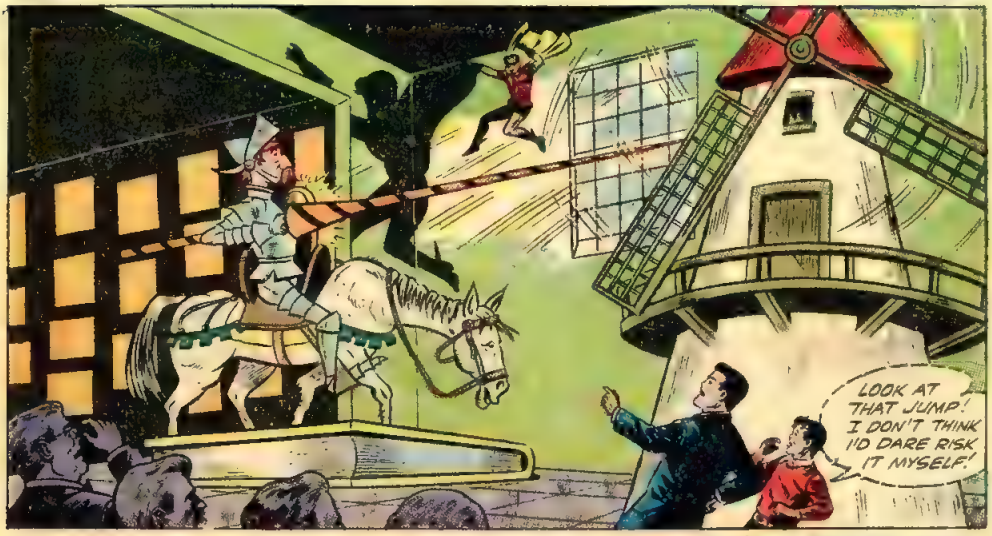

SHORTLY, AT THE EXHIBIT...
THOSE GIANT MODELS DEPICT A SCENE FROM DON QUIXOTE, WHERE THE NEAR-SIGHTED KNIGHT FIGHTS WITH A WINDMILL, THINKING IT'S A GIANT! VERY CLEVERLY DONE!
OUR THANKS TO ALL OF YOU GENTLEMEN WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED HANDSOMELY TO OUR FINANCIAL DRIVE, AND...

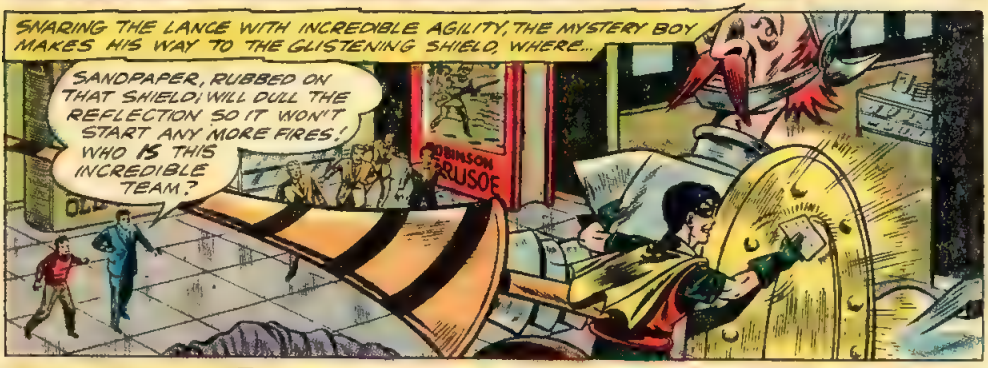

SUDDENLY...
THAT WINDOW--BURSTING INTO FLAMES! IT MIGHT BE THE HEAT OF THE SUN'S RAYS, REFLECTED OFF THAT BRIGHT SHIELD! WE'D BETTER SWITCH SECRETLY TO OUR BATMAN AND ROBIN IDENTITIES, BEFORE THE FIRE SPREADS!


BUT, THE VERY NEXT INSTANT...
GREAT SCOTT! ANOTHER BATMAN AND ROBIN TEAM!


"ROBIN" GRIPS A BLADE OF THE WINDMILL, AND...


HE HAD THAT TINY CHEMICAL FIRE EXTINGUISHER CONCEALED IN HIS UNIFORM... ALMOST AS IF HE'D COME PREPARED FOR A FIRE!


LOOK AT THAT JUMP! I DON'T THINK I'D DARE RISK IT MYSELF!

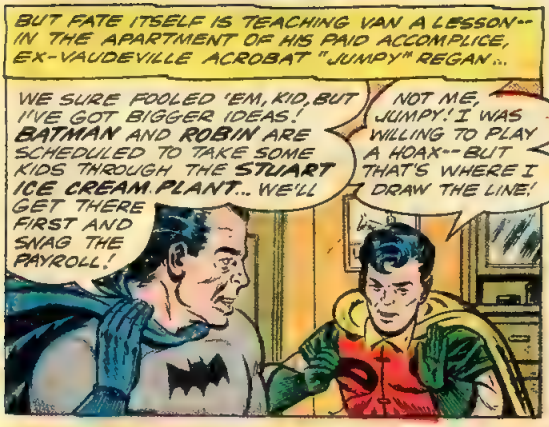

SNARING THE LANCE WITH INCREDIBLE AGILITY, THE MYSTERY BOY MAKES HIS WAY TO THE GLISTENING SHIELD, WHERE...
SANDPAPER, RUBBED ON THAT SHIELD, WILL DULL THE REFLECTION SO IT WON'T START ANY MORE FIRES! WHO IS THIS INCREDIBLE TEAM?
ROBINSON CRUSOE

AFTERWARD, TO DICK'S AMAZEMENT...
THAT "ROBIN"... HE'S WALKING OVER HERE--TO ME! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

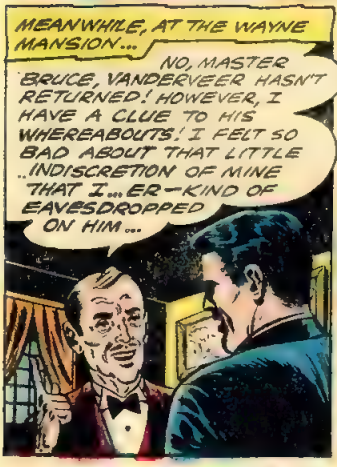
HUH? VANDER-VEER!
I DECIDED TO LET YOU IN ON A LITTLE SECRET, DICK! NOW YOU KNOW WHY I LET YOU APPEAR TO OUTCLASS ME IN GYMNASTICS! I WAS PROTECTING MY SECRET IDENTITY!

HE BORROWED OUR COSTUMES AND GOT SOMEONE TO PLAY THE PART OF BATMAN, JUST TO PROVE TO ME THAT HE WAS BETTER IN GYMNASTICS! HOW IRONIC THAT HE'S TRYING TO CONVINCE ME THAT HE'S ROBIN!

LATER, WHEN ALL THE OTHERS HAVE LEFT...
JUST AS I SUSPECTED... THEY MUST HAVE COME EARLIER AND SET THIS SCENE UP! THERE'S A THIN, ALMOST INVISIBLE WIRE LEADING TO THE MILL ... THAT'S HOW VAN "LEAPED!" THEY SET THE FIRE THEMSELVES, WITH A POWERFUL LENS!
WE CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THIS...WE'LL HAVE TO TEACH HIM A LESSON!

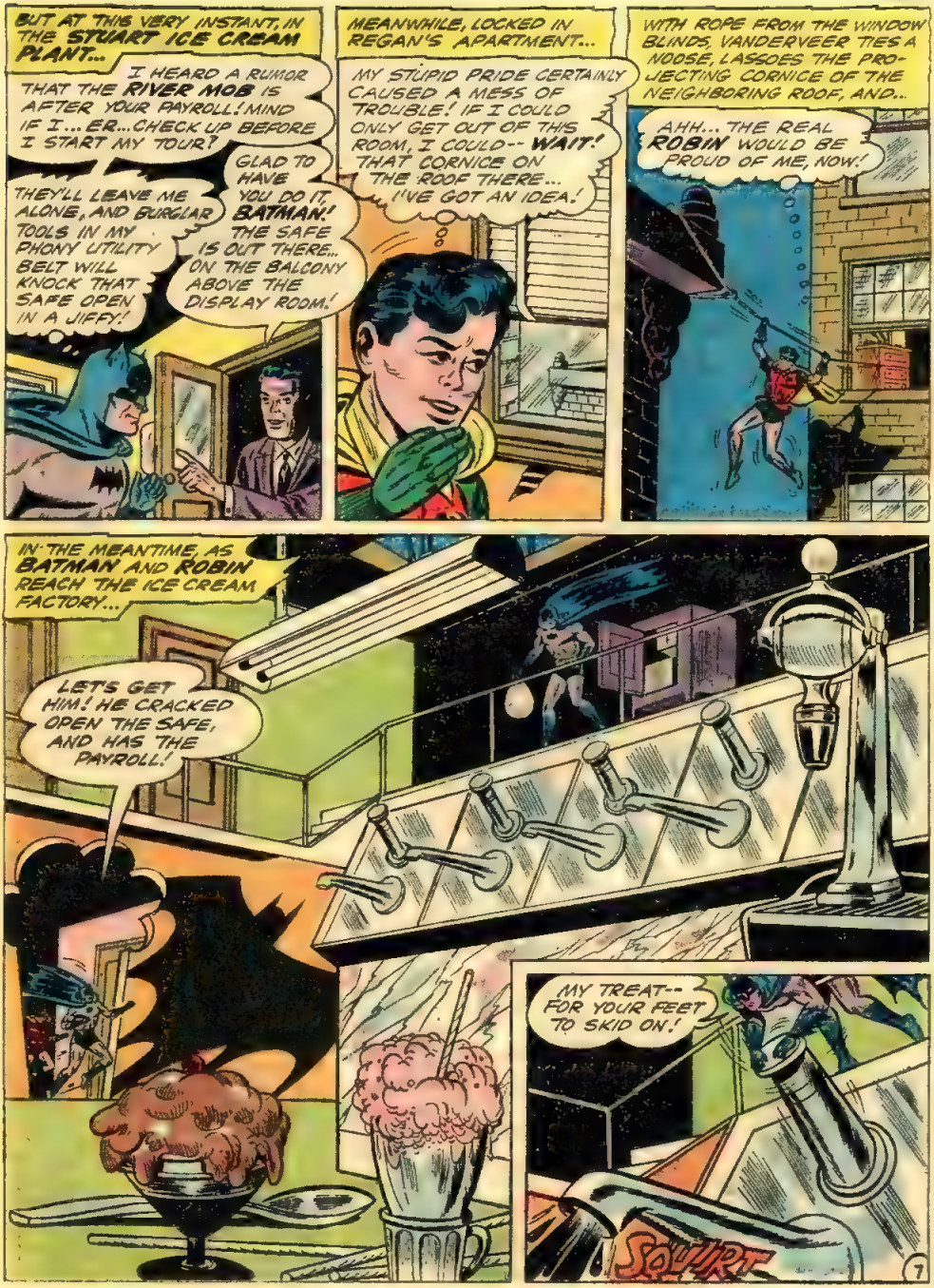

BUT FATE ITSELF IS TEACHING VAN A LESSON-- IN THE APARTMENT OF HIS PAID ACCOMPLICE, EX-VAUDEVILLE ACROBAT "JUMPY" REGAN...
WE SURE FOOLED 'EM, KID, BUT I'VE GOT BIGGER IDEAS! BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE SOME KIDS THROUGH THE STUART ICE CREAM PLANT... WE'LL GET THERE FIRST AND SNAG THE PAYROLL!
NOT ME, JUMPY! I WAS WILLING TO PLAY A HOAX-- BUT THAT'S WHERE I DRAW THE LINE!

WELL, I DRAW THE LINE HERE, AT THE POINT OF YOUR CHIN! I'LL LOCK YOU IN, AND GO MYSELF, AS BATMAN!

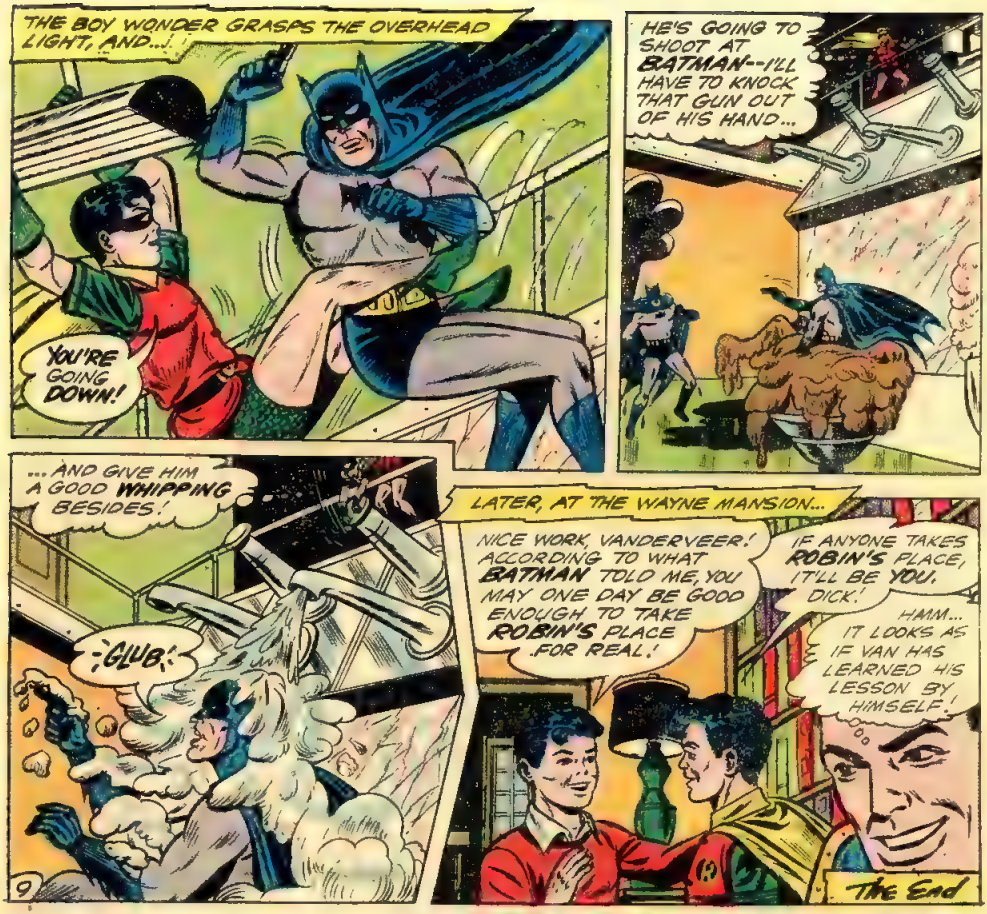

MEANWHILE, AT THE WAYNE MANSION...
NO, MASTER BRUCE, VANDERVEER HASN'T RETURNED! HOWEVER, I HAVE A CLUE TO HIS WHEREABOUTS! I FELT SO BAD ABOUT THAT LITTLE ..INDISCRETION OF MINE THAT I...ER-KIND OF EAVESDROPPED ON HIM...

...AND HEARD HIM CALL A THEATRICAL AGENCY AND ASK FOR A WELL-MUSCLED ACROBAT! THEY REFERRED HIM TO A MR. JUMPY REGAN!
WHAT? GOOD WORK, ALFRED... YOU'VE MADE UP FOR YOUR SLIP!

REGAN HAS A CRIMINAL RECORD... VAN COULD BE IN REAL DANGER! IT'S TIME FOR THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN TO GET INTO ACTION! WE'LL START BY CHECKING EVERY PLACE WHERE WE'RE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR TODAY!


BUT AT THIS VERY INSTANT, IN THE STUART ICE CREAM PLANT...
I HEARD A RUMOR THAT THE RIVER MOB IS AFTER YOUR PAYROLL! MIND IF I... ER... CHECK UP BEFORE I START MY TOUR?
GLAD TO HAVE YOU DO IT, BATMAN! THE SAFE IS OUT THERE... ON THE BALCONY ABOVE THE DISPLAY ROOM!
THEY'LL LEAVE ME ALONE, AND BURGLAR TOOLS IN MY PHONY UTILITY BELT WILL KNOCK THAT SAFE OPEN IN A JIFFY!
MEANWHILE, LOCKED IN REGAN'S APARTMENT...
MY STUPID PRIDE CERTAINLY CAUSED A MESS OF TROUBLE! IF I COULD ONLY GET OUT OF THIS ROOM, I COULD-- WAIT! THAT CORNICE ON THE ROOF THERE... I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
WITH ROPE FROM THE WINDOW BLINDS, VANDERVEER TIES A NOOSE, LASSOES THE PROJECTING CORNICE OF THE NEIGHBORING ROOF, AND..
AHH... THE REAL ROBIN WOULD BE PROUD OF ME, NOW!
IN THE MEANTIME, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN REACH THE ICE CREAM FACTORY...
LET'S GET HIM! HE CRACKED OPEN THE SAFE, AND HAS THE PAYROLL!
MY TREAT-- FOR YOUR FEET TO SKID ON!
SQUIRT

AND AS BATMAN SLIPS ON THE THICK SYRUP...
NOW TO MAKE MY GETAWAY WITH THIS LOOT! YOU'LL NEVER REACH ME IN TIME, ROBIN!
BUT THIS ROBIN WILL, REGAN!
EEIOW!
AS THE ENRAGED IMPOSTOR GOES FOR VANDERVEER...
DON'T TRY TO FIGHT HIM! JUMP -- INTO THAT GIANT SPOON RIGHT BELOW YOU!
AS VANDERVEER LEAPS DOWN...
UP I GO...


THE BOY WONDER GRASPS THE OVERHEAD LIGHT, AND...!
YOU'RE GOING DOWN!
HE'S GOING TO SHOOT AT BATMAN--I'LL HAVE TO KNOCK THAT GUN OUT OF HIS HAND...
...AND GIVE HIM A GOOD WHIPPING BESIDES!
:GLUB:
9
LATER, AT THE WAYNE MANSION...
NICE WORK, VANDERVEER! ACCORDING TO WHAT BATMAN TOLD ME, YOU MAY ONE DAY BE GOOD ENOUGH TO TAKE ROBIN'S PLACE FOR REAL!
IF ANYONE TAKES ROBIN'S PLACE, IT'LL BE YOU, DICK!
HMM... IT LOOKS AS IF VAN HAS LEARNED HIS LESSON BY HIMSELF!
The End

For The VERY BEST

SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS

in COMICS READING

CASEY
THE COP
HELLO, SONNY! RUSHING TO YOUR VIOLIN LESSON?
OH, YOU MEAN 'CAUSE I'M CARRYING THIS CASE?
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK-
BUT I'M GOING TO PLAY BASEBALL!
THE END
BE MY GUEST AT PALISADES AMUSEMENT PARK, NEW JERSEY.
THIS COUPON ENTITLES YOU TO FREE ADMISSION PLUS 2 FREE RIDES... ACTS AND PARKING!
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ADMIT ONE
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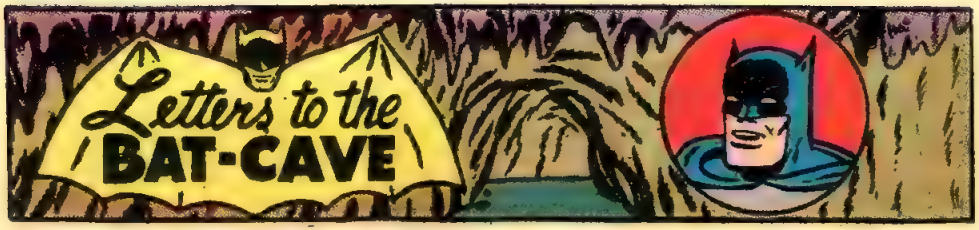


Dear Editor: Rutland, Vermont, a community of some 18,000 people, had the fun and excitement of BATMAN featured in its past Hallowe'en festivities. The Rutland Recreation Department, headed by John W. Cioffredi, sponsored a parade with over 1,000 marchers. Included in the float lineup was one depicting BATMAN.

Our "Batman" (who, like your hero, prefers to remain unidentified, and who has read the feature since its beginning) suggested the idea for the float. Hours were spent fashioning a costume, and drawing and painting a seven-foot square poster depicting BATMAN and BAT-MITE.

Band members pounded on drums, shouting "Hi, BATMAN!" or "I don't see that spotlight in the sky!" or "Where's ROBIN?" As the float passed by, several fathers, holding children too small to march, pointed to the black-caped mystery man, saying, "That's BATMAN. I used to read about him. He looks just like he does in the comic books."

I don't know how many BATMAN comics were sold the next day, in Rutland, but this still proves BATMAN and ROBIN are popular figures.

Tom Fagan, Rutland, Vt.

Committeeman, Rutland Recreation Dept.

(*Our thanks to all our fans in Rutland. We hope to continue bringing you the stories that have made BATMAN and ROBIN such popular figures everywhere.—Ed.*)

* * *

Dear Editor: You story, "THE MENACE OF CLAY-FACE," was one of the greatest. Will CLAY-FACE ever come back to battle BATMAN and ROBIN?

David Olson, Forest City, Iowa

(*We'll be bringing you "THE RETURN OF CLAY-FACE" in the JUNE issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 304.—Ed.*)

* * *

Dear Editor: To confuse an investigation, criminals sometimes wear trick gloves containing phony fingerprints. Has BATMAN ever been fooled this way?

Abbe Funt, Phoenix, Ariz.

(*It's been tried on BATMAN—to no avail. Real fingerprints always include a small residue of perspiration, which can be detected chemically, even after it dries up.—Ed.*)

* * *

Dear Editor: Recently, a friend of mine got lost in a strange woods. Because he had no compass, and the sun was hidden by clouds, he was unable to tell directions. He kept going around in circles, until a rescue party found him, hours later. I'm sure every camper would like to know how BATMAN would handle himself in a similar predicament.

Al Davidson, Roanoke, N. C.

(*One sure way out is by following the trees. BATMAN, like all experienced woodsmen, knows that moss only grows on the north side of trees. Once this direction is established, the rest is easy. —Ed.*)

* * *

Dear Editor: BATMAN and ROBIN once trapped a burglar by spotting particles of a smashed window pane outside the premises. I forget, though, how this simple clue led them to their man. Can you recall it?

Mary McCarthy, Santa Barbara, Calif.

(*The solution to that case was the result of a simple but clever deduction by the caped crime-fighters. One of the robbed victims claimed he had seen the burglar break in through the window. BATMAN and ROBIN reasoned, therefore, that the shattered glass should have been inside the house. Caught in this lie, the "victim" admitted to the crime, by which he'd hoped to collect insurance money. He'd made the mistake of smashing the window from the inside.—Ed.*)

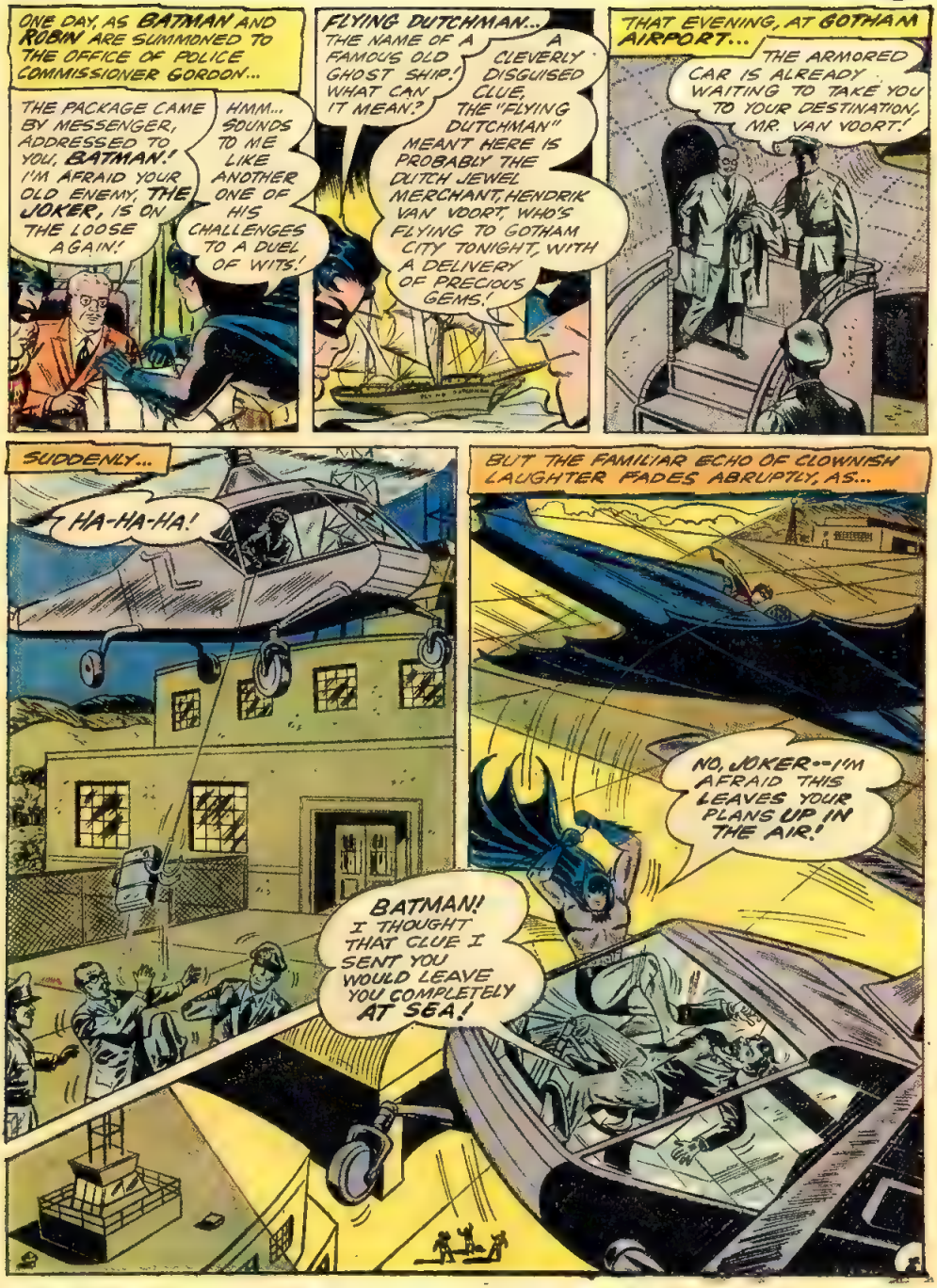
* * *

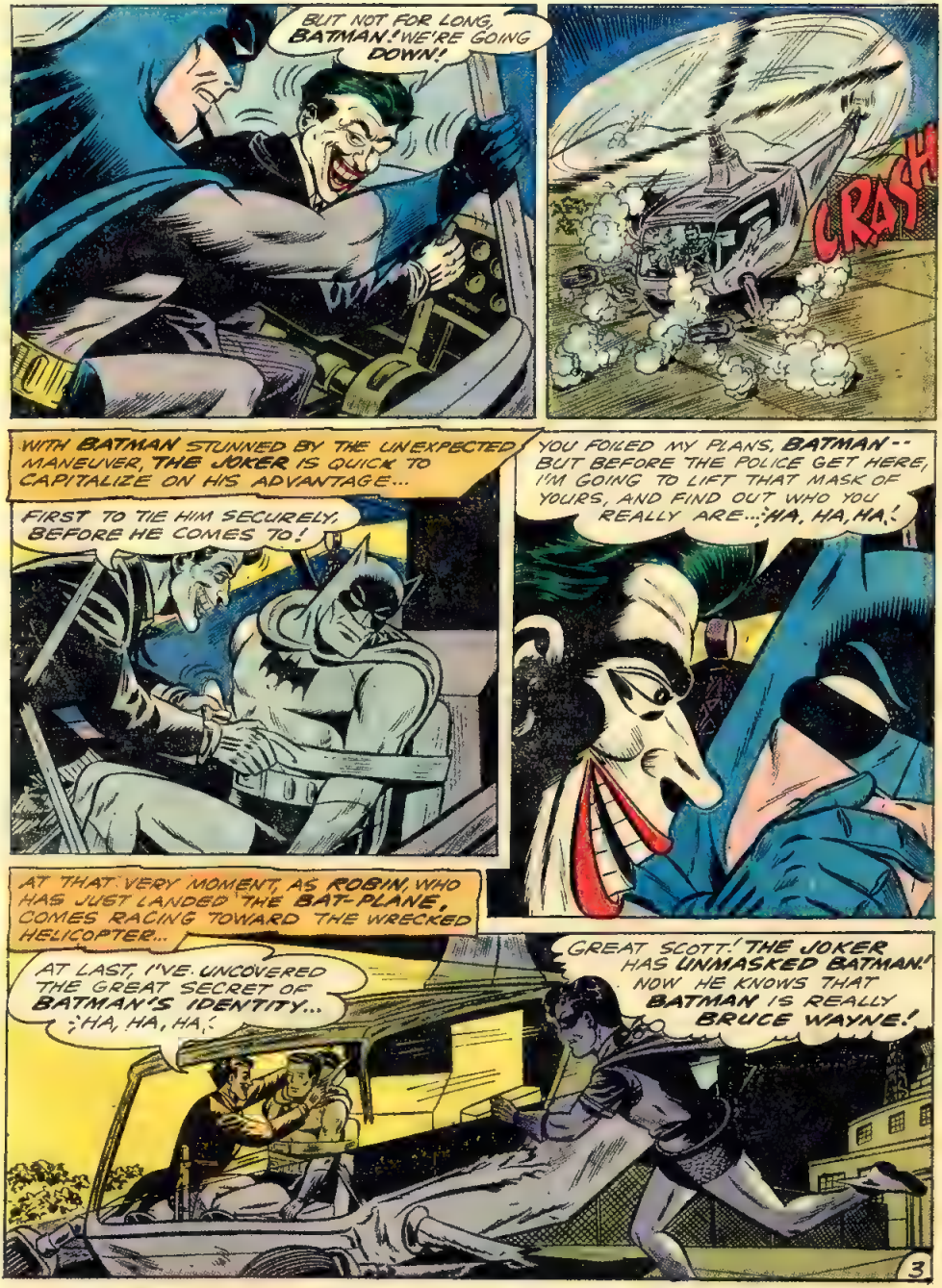
Dear Editor: You once ran a story in which BATMAN attained super-powers. Has the same thing ever happened to ROBIN?

Will Barnes, Cleveland, Ohio

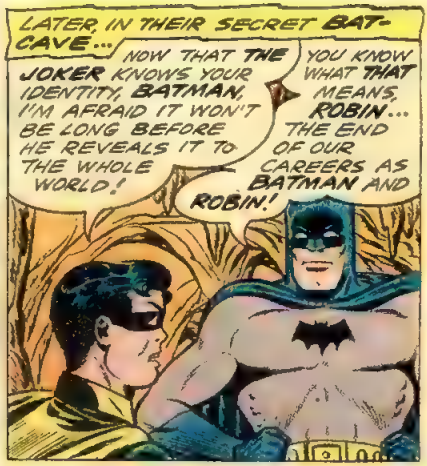
(*Yes, it has—and you'll be reading all about it in the AUGUST issue of BATMAN COMICS, No. 149, where BATMAN'S junior partner becomes "ROBIN, THE SUPER BOY WONDER!"—Ed.*)

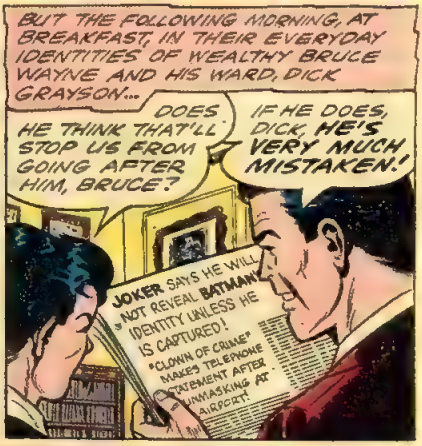
BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
OVER THE YEARS, THE JOKER, GRINNING CLOWN OF CRIME, HAS ENGAGED IN A RUNNING DUEL OF WITS WITH HIS ENEMY, BATMAN! BUT THE SEESAW BATTLE BETWEEN ARCH-CRIMINAL AND CRIME-FIGHTER IS NOW ABOUT TO END FOR ALL TIME, AS BATMAN FACES THE SHATTERING DILEMMA WHICH, WIN OR LOSE, CAN ONLY END IN...
the JOKER'S GREATEST TRIUMPH
NOW TO HAVE A GOOD LOOK AT THE FACE BEHIND THAT MASK! WHY SHOULD THE JOKER BE THE ONLY ONE TO KNOW BATMAN'S IDENTITY?
BOB KANE

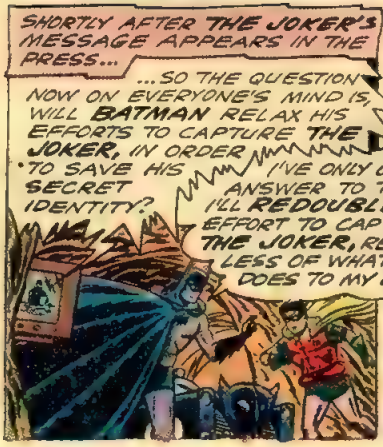

ONE DAY, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE SUMMONED TO THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...
THE PACKAGE CAME BY MESSENGER, ADDRESSED TO YOU, BATMAN! I'M AFRAID YOUR OLD ENEMY, THE JOKER, IS ON THE LOOSE AGAIN!
HMM... SOUNDS TO ME LIKE ANOTHER ONE OF HIS CHALLENGES TO A DUEL OF WITS!
FLYING DUTCHMAN...
THE NAME OF A FAMOUS OLD GHOST SHIP! WHAT CAN IT MEAN?
A CLEVERLY DISGUISED CLUE, THE "FLYING DUTCHMAN" MEANT HERE IS PROBABLY THE DUTCH JEWEL MERCHANT, HENDRIK VAN VOORT, WHO'S FLYING TO GOTHAM CITY TONIGHT, WITH A DELIVERY OF PRECIOUS GEMS!
THAT EVENING, AT GOTHAM AIRPORT...
THE ARMORED CAR IS ALREADY WAITING TO TAKE YOU TO YOUR DESTINATION, MR. VAN VOORT!
SUDDENLY...
HA-HA-HA!
BUT THE FAMILIAR ECHO OF CLOWNISH LAUGHTER FADES ABRUPTLY, AS...
NO, JOKER--I'M AFRAID THIS LEAVES YOUR PLANS UP IN THE AIR!
BATMAN! I THOUGHT THAT CLUE I SENT YOU WOULD LEAVE YOU COMPLETELY AT SEA!

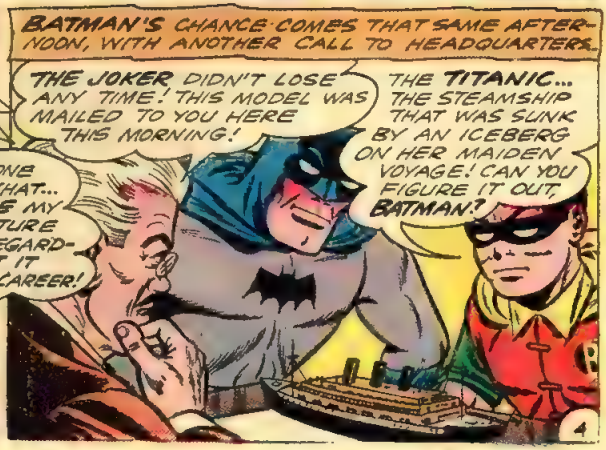

BUT NOT FOR LONG, BATMAN! WE'RE GOING DOWN!
CRASH
WITH BATMAN STUNNED BY THE UNEXPECTED MANEUVER, THE JOKER IS QUICK TO CAPITALIZE ON HIS ADVANTAGE...
FIRST TO TIE HIM SECURELY, BEFORE HE COMES TO!
YOU FOILED MY PLANS, BATMAN -- BUT BEFORE THE POLICE GET HERE, I'M GOING TO LIFT THAT MASK OF YOURS, AND FIND OUT WHO YOU REALLY ARE...;HA, HA, HA!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AS ROBIN, WHO HAS JUST LANDED THE BAT-PLANE, COMES RACING TOWARD THE WRECKED HELICOPTER...
AT LAST, I'VE UNCOVERED THE GREAT SECRET OF BATMAN'S IDENTITY... ;HA, HA, HA!
GREAT SCOTT! THE JOKER HAS UNMASKED BATMAN! NOW HE KNOWS THAT BATMAN IS REALLY BRUCE WAYNE!

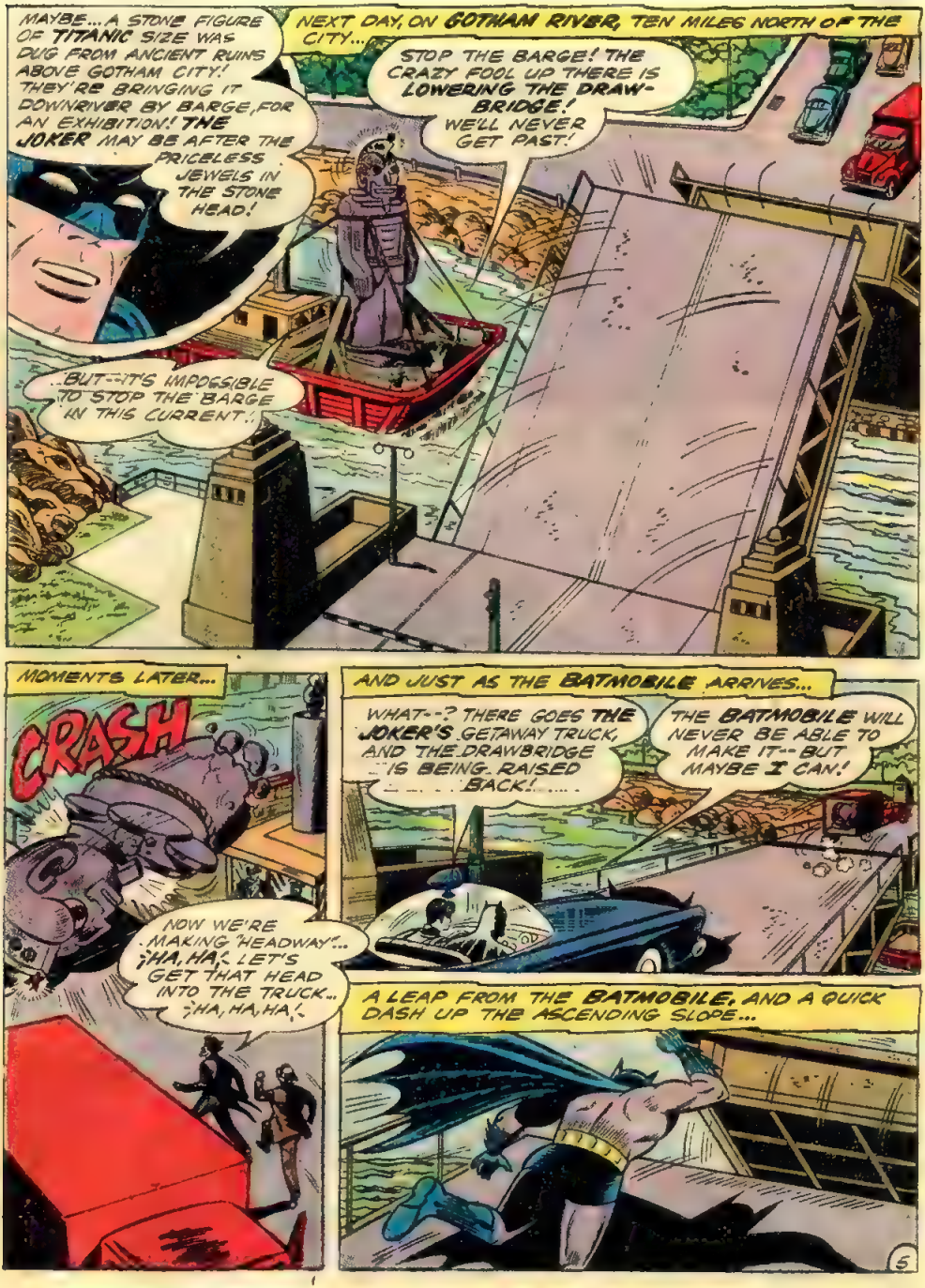
NEXT MOMENT, BEFORE ROBIN, AND THE APPROACHING AIRPORT POLICE CAN SEIZE HIM...
HE'S GETTING AWAY WITH THE HELP OF ANOTHER COPTER! I ALMOST FORGOT THAT THE JOKER ALWAYS PLANS HIS ESCAPES AS CAREFULLY AS HIS CRIMES!

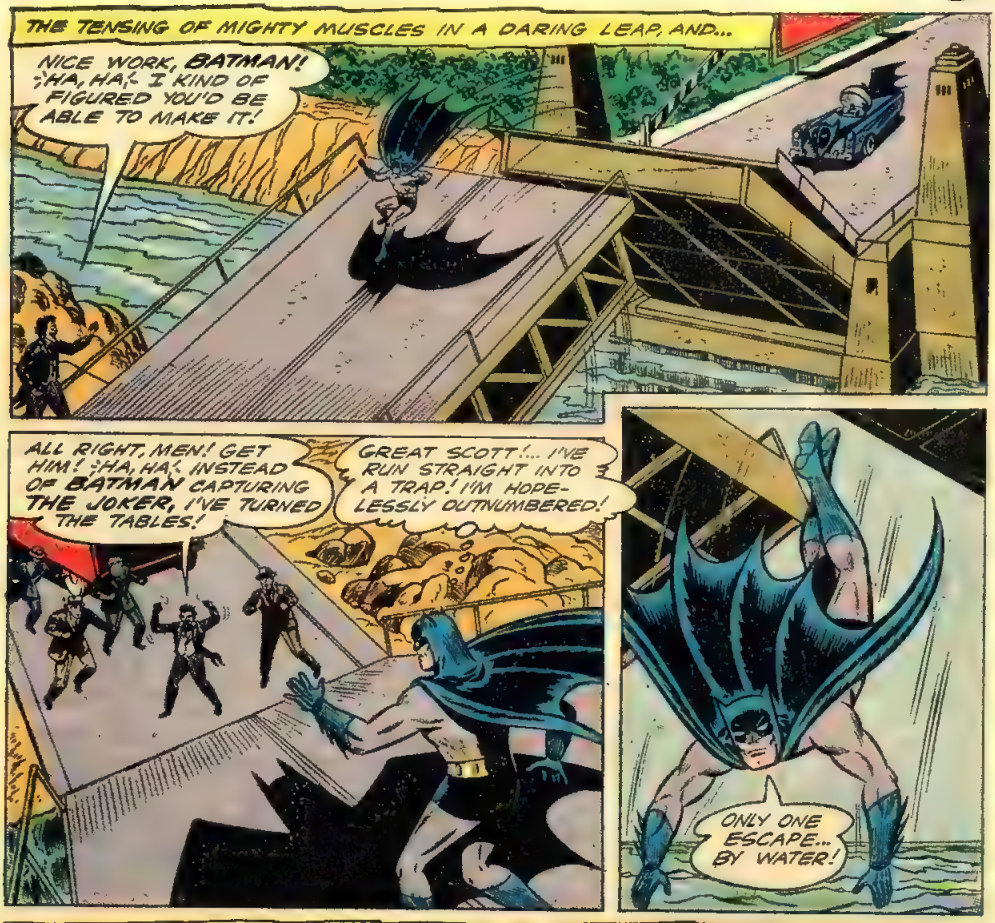

LATER, IN THEIR SECRET BAT-CAVE...
NOW THAT THE JOKER KNOWS YOUR IDENTITY, BATMAN, I'M AFRAID IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE HE REVEALS IT TO THE WHOLE WORLD!
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, ROBIN... THE END OF OUR CAREERS AS BATMAN AND ROBIN!


BUT THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT BREAKFAST, IN THEIR EVERYDAY IDENTITIES OF WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
DOES HE THINK THAT'LL STOP US FROM GOING AFTER HIM, BRUCE?
IF HE DOES, DICK, HE'S VERY MUCH MISTAKEN!
JOKER SAYS HE WILL NOT REVEAL BATMAN'S IDENTITY UNLESS HE IS CAPTURED!
"CLOWN OF CRIME" MAKES TELEPHONE STATEMENT AFTER UNMASKING AT AIRPORT!

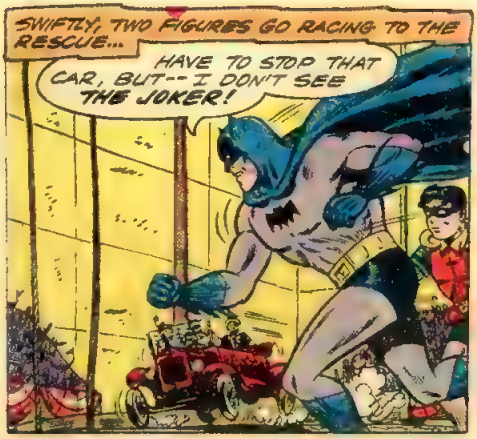

SHORTLY AFTER THE JOKER'S MESSAGE APPEARS IN THE PRESS...
...SO THE QUESTION NOW ON EVERYONE'S MIND IS, WILL BATMAN RELAX HIS EFFORTS TO CAPTURE THE JOKER, IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS SECRET IDENTITY?
I'VE ONLY ONE ANSWER TO THAT... I'LL REDOUBLE MY EFFORT TO CAPTURE THE JOKER, REGARDLESS OF WHAT IT DOES TO MY CAREER!

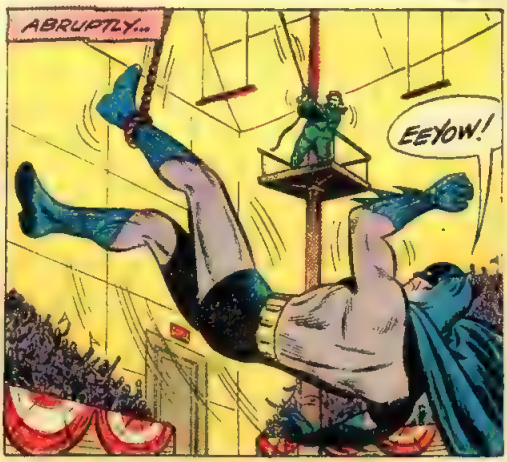

BATMAN'S CHANCE COMES THAT SAME AFTERNOON, WITH ANOTHER CALL TO HEADQUARTERS...
THE JOKER DIDN'T LOSE ANY TIME! THIS MODEL WAS MAILED TO YOU HERE THIS MORNING!
THE TITANIC... THE STEAMSHIP THAT WAS SUNK BY AN ICEBERG ON HER MAIDEN VOYAGE! CAN YOU FIGURE IT OUT, BATMAN?

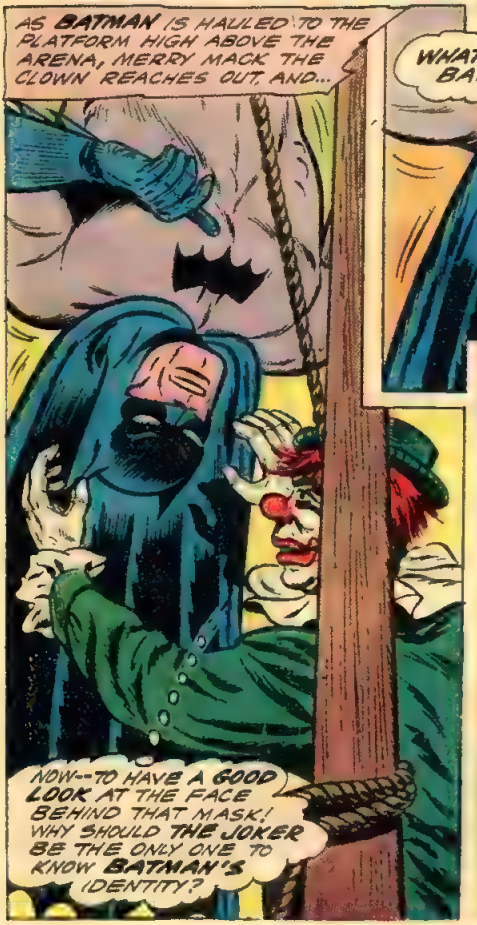

MAYBE...A STONE FIGURE OF TITANIC SIZE WAS DUG FROM ANCIENT RUINS ABOVE GOTHAM CITY! THEY'RE BRINGING IT DOWNRIVER BY BARGE, FOR AN EXHIBITION! THE JOKER MAY BE AFTER THE PRICELESS JEWELS IN THE STONE HEAD!
NEXT DAY, ON GOTHAM RIVER, TEN MILES NORTH OF THE CITY...
STOP THE BARGE! THE CRAZY FOOL UP THERE IS LOWERING THE DRAW-BRIDGE! WE'LL NEVER GET PAST!
..BUT--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP THE BARGE IN THIS CURRENT!
MOMENTS LATER...
CRASH
NOW WE'RE MAKING HEADWAY... HA, HA! LET'S GET THAT HEAD INTO THE TRUCK... HA, HA, HA!
AND JUST AS THE BATMOBILE ARRIVES...
WHAT--? THERE GOES THE JOKER'S GETAWAY TRUCK, AND THE DRAWBRIDGE IS BEING RAISED BACK!
THE BATMOBILE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE IT--BUT MAYBE I CAN!
A LEAP FROM THE BATMOBILE, AND A QUICK DASH UP THE ASCENDING SLOPE...
5

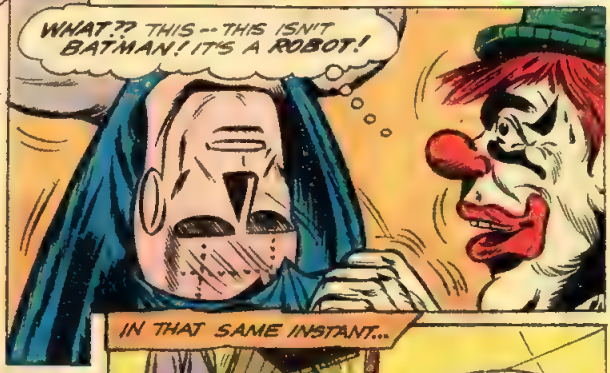

THE TENSING OF MIGHTY MUSCLES IN A DARING LEAP, AND...
NICE WORK, BATMAN! ;HA, HA!- I KIND OF FIGURED YOU'D BE ABLE TO MAKE IT!
ALL RIGHT, MEN! GET HIM! ;HA, HA!- INSTEAD OF BATMAN CAPTURING THE JOKER, I'VE TURNED THE TABLES!
GREAT SCOTT!... I'VE RUN STRAIGHT INTO A TRAP! I'M HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED!
ONLY ONE ESCAPE... BY WATER!
AFTER SWIMMING TO THE OPPOSITE SHORE, AND JOINING ROBIN...
FUNNY-- THE JOKER COULD HAVE ESCAPED EASILY WITH THE LOOT! INSTEAD, HE HELD UP HIS GETAWAY TRUCK, AND HAD ALL THOSE MEN READY TO CAPTURE ME!
MORE IMPORTANT, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE SOME PEOPLE WHO'LL WONDER WHY YOU FAILED TO CAPTURE THE JOKER!
INDEED, THAT SAME EVENING...
...AND THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE ASKING IF BATMAN'S FAILURE TO CAPTURE THE JOKER, THIS AFTERNOON, COULD HAVE BEEN AN EFFORT TO SAVE HIS IDENTITY AND HIS CAREER!
DICK--THIS MEANS THAT NEXT TIME, WE CAN'T FAIL! WE MUST GET THE JOKER!

"NEXT TIME" IS NOT LONG IN COMING--FOR THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT HEADQUARTERS...
NOW THE JOKER'S SENT US THIS MODEL OF THE MERRIMAC, THE SHIP THAT FOUGHT THE MONITOR DURING THE CIVIL WAR!
HMM -- MERRIMAC... MERRIMAC... WAIT! I THINK I'VE GOT IT!
IT MUST REFER TO THE FAMOUS CLOWN, MERRY MACK, WHO'S APPEARING AT TONIGHT'S SPECIAL CIRCUS CHARITY PERFORMANCE! THE JOKER'S PROBABLY AFTER THE COLLECTION OF RARE EASTERN IVORIES TO BE EXHIBITED IN THE SIDESHOW TENT!
LATER, BACK AT THE BAT-CAVE...
YOU UNDERSTAND, ROBIN, THAT IF WE'RE NOT SUCCESSFUL TONIGHT, OUR CAREERS ARE OVER! NO MORE CRIME-FIGHTING... NO MORE BAT-CAVE...
I KNOW, CHOKE! BUT--JUST THE SAME--WE CAN'T FAIL!
THAT NIGHT, AMONG THE CROWD GATHERED FOR THE SPECTACLE AT GOTHAM ARENA, LITTLE DOES ANYONE DREAM THAT HE MAY ALSO WITNESS THE FINAL SCENE IN THE BRILLIANT CAREERS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN...
WATCH MERRY MACK, THE GREATEST CLOWN ON EARTH, PERFORMING IN THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH!
SEE THE EXHIBIT OF RARE EASTERN IVORIES
BUT SUDDENLY, FROM THE SIDESHOW TENT...
HELP! THOSE THIEVES ARE GETTING AWAY WITH THE RARE IVORY COLLECTION!


SWIFTLY, TWO FIGURES GO RACING TO THE RESCUE...
HAVE TO STOP THAT CAR, BUT-- I DON'T SEE THE JOKER!


ABRUPTLY...
EEYOW!


AS BATMAN IS HAULED TO THE PLATFORM HIGH ABOVE THE ARENA, MERRY MACK THE CLOWN REACHES OUT AND...
NOW--TO HAVE A GOOD LOOK AT THE FACE BEHIND THAT MASK! WHY SHOULD THE JOKER BE THE ONLY ONE TO KNOW BATMAN'S IDENTITY?

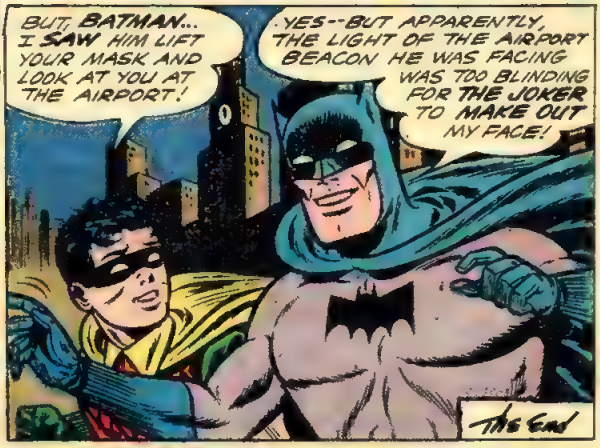

WHAT?? THIS -- THIS ISN'T BATMAN! IT'S A ROBOT!

IN THAT SAME INSTANT...
I FIGURED MY ROBOT WOULD ENTICE YOU INTO GIVING YOURSELF AWAY!
OOF!

NOW TO UNMASK ONE CLOWN AND FIND ANOTHER--THE JOKER! YOU MUST'VE WAYLAID THE REAL MERRY MACK, AND TAKEN HIS PLACE!

AND SO, AFTER FREEING THE KIDNAPED CLOWN, AND TURNING THEIR CAPTIVES OVER TO THE POLICE...
HEY, JOKER--WHAT ABOUT YOUR THREAT TO REVEAL BATMAN'S IDENTITY IF HE CAPTURED YOU?
BAH!

IT WAS JUST AN EMPTY THREAT, BECAUSE HE NEVER KNEW MY IDENTITY! I REALIZED THAT WHEN HE TRIED TO CAPTURE ME ON GOTHAM BRIDGE! WHY SHOULD HE DO THAT, UNLESS HE WERE STILL TRYING TO DISCOVER MY IDENTITY?
9


BUT, BATMAN... I SAW HIM LIFT YOUR MASK AND LOOK AT YOU AT THE AIRPORT!
YES--BUT APPARENTLY, THE LIGHT OF THE AIRPORT BEACON HE WAS FACING WAS TOO BLINDING FOR THE JOKER TO MAKE OUT MY FACE!
THE END

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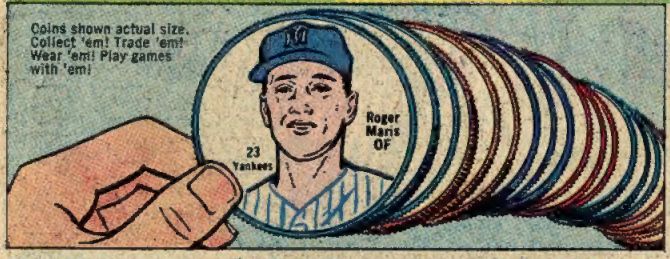

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